

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): Piston (1) for an internal combustion engine,

- having an essentially cylindrical, forged basic body (4) made of aluminum, whose one face forms a piston head (5),
- having pin bosses (8) with pin bores (3) disposed on the underside of the basic body (4) that faces away from the piston head (5),
- having skirt elements (9) that connect the pin bosses (8) with one another,
- having a ring element (6) disposed in the radially outer edge region of the piston head (5), which forms a ring-shaped cooling channel (22) with the basic body (4), wherein
- the ring element (6) consists of cast aluminum and has a ring insert (11) for a compression ring, the ring

insert being cast in to the ring element,

- wherein ~~that~~ the ring element (6) is connected with the basic body (4) by way of a screw connection that consists of an inside thread (19) disposed on a side of the ring element (6) that lies radially inside, and an outside thread (18) that matches the former, disposed in the region of the mantle surface (13) of the basic body (4) on the piston head side, ~~and~~
- ~~that~~ wherein the end of the screw connection (18, 19) on the piston head side is sealed by means of a weld seam (4), and
- wherein the ring insert (11) consists of austenitic cast iron.

Claim 2 (Cancelled).